

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4786

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 0100

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR PFOR GT UK BH

SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ALLEGING U. S. COMMITMENT TO PROTECT
GUATEMALA FROM CUBA

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE FROM THE MARCH 12 ISSUE OF AMANDALA
(A BLACK POWER NEWSPAPER) IS ILLUSTRATIVE OF LOCAL PRESS AND
OFFICIAL REACTION TO RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS ON CUBA BY PRESIDENT
AND SECRETARY:

"FORD ATTACKS CASTRO FLORIDA, SAT. FEB 28

"PRESIDENT GERALD FORD OF THE UNITED STATES CALLED CUBAN PREMIER
FIDEL CASTRO AN "INTERNATIONAL OUTLAW" TODAY. FORD DREW ENTHUS-
IASTIC APPLAUSE AT THE DADE COUNTY AUDITORIUM WHERE HE TOLD 1,178
NEWLY NATURALIZED CITIZENS THAT HIS ADMINISTRATION "WILL HAVE
NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CUBA OF FIDEL CASTRO."

"I SOLEMNLY WARN FIDEL CASTRO AGAINST ANY TEMPTATION OF ARMED
INTERVENTION IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE" HE ADDED. "LET
HIS REGIME OR ANY LIKE-MINDED GOVERNMENT BE ASSURED THAT THE UNITED
STATES WOULD TAKE THE APPROPRIATE MEASURES."

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"THIS HAS BEEN INTERPRETED IN BELIZE TO MEAN THAT IF GUATEMALA INVADES BELIZE, AND CUBA CARRIES OUT HER PLEDGE TO HELP BELIZE SECURE HER SELF DETERMINATION THEN THE US WILL INTERVENE IN BELIZE ON BEHALF OF GUATEMALA OR INVADE CUBA OR BOTH.

"WHATEVER, SINCE CUBA JUST LAST YEAR VOTED IN THE UNITED NATIONS IN SUPPORT OF BELIZE'S SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE U. S. SOMEWHAT POINTEDLY ABSTAINED. THIS PUTS BELIZE IN A TRICKY POSITION. BELIZEANS ARE NOT COMMUNISTS, BUT WE IN OUR DESPERATE POSITION MUST ACCEPT HELP FROM WHERE WE CAN GET IT. FORD IS SUPPORTING ENEMY GUATEMALA AND CASTRO IS SUPPORTING US WHAT THE HELL DOES FORD EXPECT US TO DO, BITE OFF OUR NOSE TO FEED OUR FACE?

"WHERE BELIZE IS CONCERNED, ALL FORD HAS TO DO IS TELL GUATEMALA HANDS OFF. WE WILL THEN BECOME INDEPENDENT AND WE PROMISE NOT TO BECOME COMMUNIST. WE ARE A RELIGIOUS PEOPLE.

"THREATS WILL NOT HELP MR. FORD. IF AND WHEN HE INTERVENES AGAINST CUBA OR INVADES HAVANA, DOES HE EXPECT RUSSIA TO STAND IDLY BY?

"THIS NEWSPAPER HEREBY EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PRAGMATIC POLITICS OF MR. ROGERS. THIS IS NO TIME FOR IDEOLOGIES LIKE CAPITALISM AND COMMUNISM. IT IS RATHER A TIME FOR SURVIVAL."

2. COMMENT: ARTICLE'S REFERENCE TO PLEDGE BY CUBA "TO HELP BELIZE SECURE HER SELF DETERMINATION" IS ONE EXAMPLE OF ALLEGATIONS I HAVE SEEN IN OPPOSITION NEWSPAPERS LATELY IMPLYING THAT PRICE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING TO CUBA FOR A POST-INDEPENDENCE SECURITY GUARANTEE. REFERENCE TO "PRAGMATIC POLITICS" OF MR. ROGERS MAY REFER TO LATTER'S VIEW (WHICH I HAVE HEARD HIM EXPRESS PRIVATELY BUT AM NOT AWARE HE HAS EXPRESSED PUBLICLY) THAT BELIZE SHOULD SEEK A DEFENSE GUARANTEE WHEREVER IT CAN GET ONE IF UK-GUATEMALA DISPUTE REMAINS UNRESOLVED.
GAWF

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